

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ADDENDUM
TO THE SENATE and HOUSE CALENDAR

OF Thursday, May 3, 2007

H.C.R. 135

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Community High School of Vermont on earning accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Offered by: House Committee on Institutions

Offered by: Senate Committee on Education

Whereas, most persons who become incarcerated are high school dropouts and lack fundamental skills to obtain and retain employment, and

Whereas, in order to improve the personal and family prospects of those under state correctional supervision, the general assembly established in sections 120 and 121 of Title 28, an independent high school, known as the Community High School of Vermont (CHSVT), within the state correctional system, and

Whereas, “The Mission of the Community High School of Vermont is to provide an accredited, coordinated and personalized education that assists students in their academic, social and vocational success,” and this mission is distinctly summarized with the phrase “living, learning, and working” and

Whereas, unlike in many other jurisdictions, CHSVT is not centered in one correctional facility, but is present in every state-sponsored correctional facility and probation and parole campus, enabling the student to continue a course of study wherever assigned within the system, and

Whereas, approximately 1,500 students have passed through the school since its inception, typically 380 individuals are enrolled at any given moment, and, annually, there are roughly 150 proud high school graduates, and,

Whereas, in March 2006, in order to enhance the school’s academic standing and the respect that the students’ diplomas are accorded outside the correctional system, CHSVT began the challenging application process of earning accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and

Whereas, CHSVT completed an exhaustive self-study report that it submitted to the NEASC in September 2006, and, in October, an NEASC team conducted a five-day site visit at the school and submitted a report to the Independent School Commission in January 2007, and

Whereas, on February 12, 2007, the Independent School Commission voted unanimously to recommend that CHSVT be awarded NEASC accreditation, and, on March 16, 2007, the NEASC board of trustees voted to approve full accreditation for CHSVT, and

Whereas, CHSVT, under the innovative and enthusiastic leadership of its superintendent, Bob Lucenti, and principal, Stephan LaTulippe, is the first statewide school for offenders to receive NEASC accreditation, which is a remarkable accomplishment, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Community High School of Vermont on earning accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to commissioner of corrections Rob Hofmann, to the director of corrections education and superintendent of the Community High School of Vermont, Bob Lucenti, and to the chief of corrections education and principal of the Community High School of Vermont, Stephan LaTulippe.